

Serial No. 10/707,157

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] A bi-directional drive element 56 may be located at the end 19 of the tubular body 12 to allow the axle assembly 10 to be rotated clockwise or counterclockwise. The bi-directional element 56 is preferably a projection or a tab [[60]] integrated with the tubular body. The clamp lever 24 may be positioned to contact either a first or second side 62, 64, respectively, of the bi-directional drive element 56 to rotate the axle assembly 10 clockwise (FIG. 3b) or counterclockwise (FIG. 3a).

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] In an alternative embodiment of the invention, shown in FIG. 7, the sliding thrust washer 40 and sliding first expansion washer 42 of the embodiments of FIGS. 1-6 are replaced by a thrust washer 140 that is axially restrained by a shoulder 141 of a tubular body 112 located near a second end 119 of the tubular body 112. Upon pivoting of the lever actuator 24 toward its closed position (FIG. 6), the cam 66 now bears against the axially fixed thrust washer 140 to pull the skewer 26 axially, drawing the second expansion washer 48 inwardly to radially deform the tubular body 112 at its first end 117. Accordingly, in the embodiment of FIG. 7, the second expansion washer 48 and skewer 26 form a follower assembly responsive to the pivoting motion of the lever actuator 24.